

State Fish Commissioner Nickerson Talks of Their Extent.

In 1900 Over 152,000,000 Pounds Was the Amount.

The following extracts from the speech of A. R. Nickerson, commissioner of the Sea and Shore Fisheries of the state of Maine, before the State Board of Trade at Rockland, Me., in Nov. 1901, will be of interest to the TIMES readers. Mr. Nickerson is well known here, being a member of the fish firm of S. Nickerson & Sons of Boothbay Harbor:

"I believe that the importance and value of the sea and shore fishery interests of our state are not appreciated by the average citizen. The gentleman who regularly has his fish course at table—his salad of lobster, and ever popular chowder—seldom takes cognizance of the labor, difficulties and dangerous experiences of the individual fisherman who lives by supplying the table with deep water delicacies, or the economic value or quantities necessary to supply all the demands, or the aggregate value of the fisheries to the state.

"When I state that in the year 1900 the sea fisheries of the state yielded a total of more than 152,000,000 lbs. of value (in a crude state as landed by the fishermen) of \$2,787,435, I think I may surprise many a citizen of the maritime state of Maine, who, nonchalantly, and as a matter of habit, or I might say "matter of course," enjoys his fish dinner at home.

"This is the amount and value as landed in the state. Very considerable quantities of groundfish, mackerel, swordfish and other kinds taken by Maine vessels and fishermen are landed and marketed out of the state and not included in the above computation. The labor of 16,934 persons was required to produce the above results.

"In the several fisheries within the state, 7,154 steamers, vessels, and boats of all kinds were used in 1900, of the value of over \$2,400,000, including the apparatus and gear engaged, but not including the cash capital used in the promotion of the business.

"The lobster fishery is the most important in many respects in this State today. The value of the lobsters taken in 1900 is \$1,038,000. This is the largest value of any single fishery, and considerably more than one-third of the production of all the fisheries. The returns to the lobster fishermen are gradually increasing each year, notwithstanding that the number of lobsters taken necessarily varies from year to year.

"To illustrate in a few words this important business, I will say that in 1899 and 1900, 5577 egg-bearing lobsters were taken from Maine to the Gloucester, Mass., hatchery of the United States Commission, and from there were returned and liberated in Maine waters at many points along the coast no less than 68,625,000 young lobsters in a condition to take pretty good care of themselves in their natural haunts.

"There were 74,549,909 lbs. of cod, hake, halibut, and other deep sea fish landed in 1899 and 1900, and the value was \$1,217,829 00. For many years prices have not averaged higher than in the past 12 months. These fisheries are conducted both by long voyages, where the catch is salted, and the comparatively short voyages, where the fish are brought in fresh on ice, and the latter branch of the business is gaining rapidly.

"The mackerel fishery has gained greatly the present year. State of Maine fishermen are taking special honors by reason of the landing of high line fares, and Boothbay Harbor skippers deserve special mention. The mackerel are this season on our coast more abundantly than for many years, and the yield will be consequently very large at the close of the season as compared with recent years. Can we expect the large fleet's phenomenal catch and returns of 25 years ago? Vessels with auxiliary power, of which there are but five in New England, are considered a financial success for mackerel fishing.

"In connection with the deep sea fishery I wish to record my most decided convictions in favor of a national bounty, or subsidy, to vessels and men engaged in this business. The owners are at great risk from loss, and the crews pursue a dangerous, laborious, and altogether uncertain business. They suffer many exposures, privations and hardships in the pursuit of nothing more than a living. Think of a voyage in a small vessel to the Georges' Banks in January when you are barely comfortable in a furnace-heated parlor on New Year's Day.

"The menhaden fishery, which, a few years ago, reached such importance in Maine, with an investment of more than \$2,000,000 within our territory has been a failure for several years. This year 700 bbls. would cover the entire catch in

Saturday, Jan 25

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Market.

Board of Trade prices: large handline Georges cod, \$4.00 per cwt., medium do., \$3.25; large trawl Georges, \$3.75, medium do., \$3.00; handline cod from deck, caught east of Cape Sable, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.00; large trawl bank cod, \$3.25; medium do., \$2.75 large dory handline cod, \$3.50, medium do., \$3.

Outside sales dory handline bank cod \$3 5-8 per cwt. for large and \$3 1-8 per cwt for medium

Boston

Jan. 25—Ar., sch. Viking, 3000 haddock, 4000 cod, 3000 hake.

Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, 2500 haddock, 4000 cod, 2000 hake.

Sch. Altama, 1000 haddock, 800 cod.

Haddock, \$2; large cod, \$3; market cod, \$2; hake \$2.25.

Provincetown.

Sch. Philomena Manta, Capt. Manuel Caton, hauled into the stream this week fitted for haddocking.

Mr. William Elwell left town this morning for Gloucester, where he goes with a view of purchasing a fishing boat.

Six barrels of herring taken by the Conwell Bros.' trap this morning brought \$6.50 per barrel, purchased by the fishing boat Venus.

The crew of sch. William A. Morse shared \$40 each on a trip of fish landed last week.

Sch. Gov. Russell is fitting for haddocking.

BIG HALIBUT FARE.

Sch. Anglo Saxon Had Over 5,000 Pounds Last Trip.

Stocked \$4093.88 and Crew Shared \$182 87.

Sch. Anglo Saxon, Capt. Robert Porper, weighed off 51,378 pounds of halibut as the result of her recent fresh halibut trip, making the big stock of \$4,093.88, the crew sharing \$102 87. This is the largest halibut trip of the season, as well as the best stock and share, and Capt. Porper and his crew are to be congratulated on their deserved good fortune.

MODUS VIVENDI EXTENDED.

Canadian Fishing Licenses Will Be Granted on Usual Terms.

A dispatch from Ottawa says that an order in council has been passed extending the modus vivendi between Canada and the United States in regard to fishing vessels for the year 1902. Licenses will be issued on the usual terms for the purchase of bait, ice, seines, lines and all other supplies and outfits, as well the transportation of catch and the shipping of crews. The fee is \$1.50 a ton.

Big Fare.

Sch. Kentucky, Capt. Elray Prior is in from La Have this morning with a big fare, 85,000 pounds fresh fish and 2000 pounds of halibut. The fare sold to the Gloucester Fresh Fish Co., at \$2 for haddock, \$3 for large cod and \$1.75 for markets.

Monday, Jan. 27

DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Triton, Georges, 25,000 lbs. cod, 3000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Cecil H. Low, Georges, 30,000 lbs. cod, 5000 lbs. fresh cod, 2000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Ralph Russell, shore, 2000 lbs. fresh cod, 2000 lbs. haddock, 10,000 lbs. hake, 5000 lbs. cusk.

Sch. Tacoma, Quero Bank, 27,000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Arbitrator, Quero Bank, 26,000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Alice R. Lawson, Placentia Bay, N. F., 1000 bbls. frozen herring.

Sch. Slade Gorton, Georges, 2000 lbs. fresh cod, 30,000 lbs. haddock.

To-day's Market.

Board of Trade prices: large handline Georges cod, \$4.00 per cwt., medium do., \$3.25; large trawl Georges, \$3.75, medium do., \$3.00; handline cod from deck, caught east of Cape Sable, \$3.75; medium do., \$3.00; large trawl bank cod, \$3.25; medium do., \$2.75 large dory handline cod, \$3.50, medium do., \$3.

Outside sales dory handline bank cod \$3 5-8 per cwt. for large and \$3 1-8 per cwt for medium

Boston

Jan. 27—Ar., sch. Elsie M. Smith, 20,000 haddock, 1500 cod.

Sch. Lizzie M. Stanley, 33,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 2000 hake, 3000 pollock.

Sch. James G. Blaine, 20,000 haddock, 3000 cod, 12,000 hake, 1000 pollock.

Sch. Monarch, 50,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Alice M. Guthrie, 44,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. James S. Steele, 33,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Massachusetts, 20,000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Marshall L. Adams, 30,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Mattakesett, 40,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Effie M. Morrissey, 26,000 lbs. fresh fish.

Sch. Ella M. Doughty.

Sch. Dorothy.

Sch. Sadie M. Nunan.

Sch. Thomas Brundage.

Sch. Carrie F. Roberts.

Sch. A. T. Gifford.

Sch. James Drinan.

Sch. Sylph.

Sch. Eva and Mildred.

Sch. Louisa and Rosie.

Sch. Emma W. Brown.

Sch. Bertha M. Bailey.

Sch. Two Forty.

Sch. Flirt.

Sch. Regina.

Sch. Susie Hooper.

Sch. Mary Cabral.

Sch. Mary T. Fallon.

Sch. Braganza.

Sch. Grace Darling.

Sch. Viola.

Sch. Mertis H. Perry.

Sch. Sylvia M. Nunan.

Sch. Manomee.

Sch. Oliver F. Kilham.

Sch. Rienzi.

Sch. William A. Morse.

Sch. James R. Clark.

Sch. Maud S.

Sch. Nellie G. Adams.

Sch. Marshall L. Adams.

Sch. Viking.

Sch. John M. Keen.

Sch. Mary and Edith.

Sch. Venus.

Sch. Allen H. Jones.

Haddock, \$1.40 to \$1.50; large cod, \$2.25 to \$3.50; market cod, \$1.50 to \$2.75; pollock, \$1.50 to \$2; cusk, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Halibut Sales.

The fare of sch. Arbitrator sold to the New England Fish Co. at 13 cents per pound for white and 9 cents for gray and that of sch. Tacoma to the Atlantic Halibut Co. at the same figure.